

THE KALIFORNSKI



*Have a beautiful
Thanksgiving*

*Newsletter of the Slavic-American Cultural Organization
P.O. Box 226 ~ Watsonville, California 95077
(A Non-Profit ~ Non-Religious & Non-Political Organization)*

EDITORS:
*Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud
Nina Matulich*



AUTUMN 2010





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

The pot roast and macaroni dinner which was held on Saturday, October 9, 2010 was prepared by Peter Kovacich and his crew and served 140 people, including 14 take-outs. Delicious! Thank you Peter!

Many thanks go out to all those who attended this event. Thanks also go out to the helpers: Nina Matulich on reservations, Helen Marinovich Ukestad and Norma Hansen on raffle tickets, Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud on drink tickets, raffle number calling, decorations and cake serving with helper, Helen Mekis Ostoja and to the bartenders, John Vodanovich and Michael Mifsud II.

Many thanks to Gary Gospodnetich for preparing and bringing the bakalar.

Our next event is the Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at the Woman's Club. See you all there!

STEVE BELICK

S.A.C.O. OFFICERS

President ~ Steve Belick ~ 477-7523

Vice-President ~ Peter Kovacich ~ 724-0071

Treasurer ~ Jo Franich Puhera ~ 724-8930

Recording Secretary ~ Linda Wathen Espejo ~ 724-2892

Financial/Corresponding Secretary ~ Nina Matulich ~ 724-7971



COMING EVENT 2010

DECEMBER 11, 2010 ~ Saturday ~ Christmas Dinner

UPCOMING EVENT IN SAN FRANCISCO

NOVEMBER 26 & 27 ~ KOLO FESTIVAL

This event is held at the Croatian-American Cultural Center-Slavonic MBS 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco, CA (near Alemany Blvd. & Balboa BART) For more info: Call: 510-649-0941 or visit: www.croatianamericanweb.org



WE GIVE THANKS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY





Dinner
October 9, 2010

Pat Gospodnetich Solano
Barbara Guinn
Karen Belick
S.A.C.O.
Sharon Alaga
Mary Marinovich Siefke
Lillian Jercich Nielsen
Christina Justus Garcia
Janet Pelich Skillicorn

DESSERTS



Judy Hager
Judy Carey Eiskamp
Slavica Kusanovich Zalac
Jo Franich Puhera
Helen Marinovich Ukestad
Sharon Nizenkoff
Evelyn Balla
Ann Backovich
Susan Radin Gallagher

PRIZES

Alex Solano
Barbara Guinn
Steve Belick
S.A.C.O.
Norma Hansen
Tom & Gerianne Simmons
Ann Lukrich Dobler
Sharon Alaga
Nina Matulich
Michael Mifsud II
Lillian Jercich Nielsen
Betty Kesovia Bobeda
Nita Gizdich

Sue Bloom
Bob Leonardich
Christina Justus Garcia
Bill Resetar
John Vedanovich
Janet Pelich Skillicorn
Charlotte Strazicich Car
Agnes Gospodnetic Mifsud
Mark Davis
Frances Davis
Gary Gospodnetich
Sandy Jurach
Steve Millich



CROATIAN DELIGHTS FOR AUTUMN

PUMPKIN & POPPY SEED STRUDEL

8 sheets of ready-made phyllo pastry dough
1 ½ lbs. can pumpkin pie mix
1 ¼ lbs. cottage cheese
3 ½ ozs. poppy seeds

4 eggs
½ cup sugar
1 ½ cube butter-melted
½ cup sour cream

Mix pumpkin, cottage cheese(strained) ground poppy seeds, sour cream, whisked eggs and sugar.

Brush the dough with melted butter and spread with the prepared filling (two sheets for each strudel), roll up and place in baking pan.

Brush the strudels with the remaining butter and Bake at 350* for 35 minutes

Sprinkle with sugar while still hot. Cut when cool.



CHERRY CAKE

1 cube butter
¾ cup sugar
3 eggs
1 ¼ cups flour
½ teaspoon baking powder

3 to 4 Tablespoons milk
lemon zest (1 lemon)
½ cup ground walnuts
2 lbs. cherries (jar or can)



Mix the butter, sugar and egg yolks until light and fluffy. Add the flour sifted with the baking powder, milk, grated lemon zest, and mix all of these ingredients until well blended. Beat the egg whites to stiff peak stage, and fold them carefully into the mixture, alternating with the ground walnuts. Pour the prepared mixture into a buttered pan (9x12) . Arrange the pitted cherries on top of the cake. Bake for 40 minutes at 350* When cooled, sprinkle with powder sugar. Note: you can use other fruits if you wish too, very good with halved apricots!

CROATIA TRAVEL

CHESTNUT FESTIVAL OF KOSTAJNICA, CROATIA

At the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the banks of the Una River, Hrvatska Kostajnica – a small town that derives its name from the surrounding forests, rich in chestnut woods. It is the chestnuts that play the lead role in the traditional October event in Kostajnica the Chestnut Festival. As a part of the Kestenjada – the chestnut harvest on the surrounding hills and forests, the locals do their best to attract visitors who traditionally come to the chestnut harvest. During this time, the visitors can go to the woods to gather chestnuts, they can enjoy sweet and savory chestnut dishes, as well as a wide range of homemade cakes. Besides participating in the harvest, visitors may also participate in the traditional bicycle tour. The inhabitants of Kostajnica cherish their old customs, so a stay in Kostajnica is also pleasant during other seasons. Thanks to the beautiful green Una valley and the breathtaking river Una, Kostajnica humbly continues on the border of this land and has been generously giving up its beauty for more than seven and a half centuries. The heart of Kostajnica extends its hand with a simplicity and goodwill that leaves no one indifferent.





TRAVELING TO CROATIA



BRAC & KONAVLE

Hank & Cathy Moresco Schimpeler

We arrived in Split on April 6th, 2010 at 7:00 am and were met by Iveta(Dido) Derpich, (a member of our Watsonville Derpich Family). He drove us to his home for a 4-day stay. The family home in Supetar sits at waters edge. Dido drove us all over Brač. The quarries were amazing. The people who work in them are so talented. All the work is done by hand (hammer and chisel) everything from plaques to renderings of the "Pieta". The scenery here is beautiful ~ the water~a deep blue, surrounded by the stone homes of the area. We spent an evening with the Derpich's enjoying the usual excellent food prepared by the family. When it was time to leave Brač, Dido insisted that he take us to Cavtat. On the way to Cavtat, we stopped in Medjugorje for about two hours. We arrived at the Bachan apartments in Cavtat at 5 pm. There we were met by my Bachan cousins. My cousin Antone became our driver. The weather was April weather, it rained almost everyday.

In Konavle, Hank met my family the Bachans, Radovich's in Cavtat and Cilipi. Antone Bachan drove us to the village of Pridvorje to visit the Pekoch and Marinovich Families. Included in our 10 days in Konavle, we spent time in Dubrovnik seeing the historical sights and dining with family at Konarvoske Doola and the Moncuvich Restaurant. I have had the good fortune to travel to Croatia six times. This was Hank's first visit. He enjoyed the entire stay because through the years he has been associated and friendly with so many of the Croatians. He, like so many people who visit Croatia, are taken with the beauty of the country. He was most impressed with the warmth and hospitality of all the people we were with. Everyone who shares our heritage should make every effort to visit this beautiful country.

Thank you for allowing us to share our experience with you.

Hank & Cathy Moresco Schimpeler

SUPETAR



Cavtat, the coastal center of Konavle

Pučića, stone quarries



AUTUMN AND WINTER IN CROATIA

Don't worry if you missed out on summer in Croatia as autumn and winter could be a great getaway from work and stress. With mild climates and warm days, including lots of festivals and other happenings. Croatia is now a resort to visit throughout the whole year. If you don't like summer hot days and nights, want some peace and still have some fun, autumn and winter are the best parts of the year for visiting Croatia. Forget about traffic jams, crowded beaches, long lines for your favorite restaurants, for you will be able to blend in with its culture and people, visit places you always wanted but kept delaying your trip due to crowds, and enjoy! With mild and rainy weather along the coast may keep you off the beach, and some hotels may be closed, but overall it's a good time for holiday if you like participating in many cultural events. Good late autumn destinations in Croatia include the interior of Istria, the national parks and cities such as Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik that offer a vibrant cultural life where you can always duck into a museum if the weather turns nasty. There's something interesting about spending your winter in the Northern parts of the Adriatic. You can easily spend your mornings with a cup of coffee along the well known "lungo mare" in Opatija, and still go to the beautiful Platak, mountain where you can enjoy the rest of the day snowboarding or skiing as the snow can last up there until March. In February, the famous Carnival in Rijeka is the event of the winter. You can just take pictures, try local cuisine, spend your days attending the events, or put your mask on and join hundreds on the streets of this old port town and have some fun! The interior can be brutally cold(bura), but it's good for appreciating snowy hills and white-capped mountains, especially if you ski.

Autumn in Croatia



The **Rijeka** Carnival is in Rijeka, Croatia.





Dear SACOnians:

A book will be printed early next year about the Slavic community of Watsonville. It is a compilation of the local newspaper articles on Slavs and Slav businesses, as found on microfilm, and covers the years 1881-1920. There is very little narrative in the book but there will be a list of surnames, villages of origin, maps showing these villages, a short biography on many (but not all) surnames, and an extensive index. Also more than 250 photos. Most of these photos will illustrate the birth and marriage announcements, as found in the newspapers. The book will be around 850 pages, 8.5 x 11, and probably hard-bound.

It is a reference book and will be distributed, free of charge, to 25 libraries and archives, both here and in Croatia, as well as the Library of Congress. A grant was received that funded much of the research and pays for the printing of the 25 free copies that will go to the libraries and archives.

However....I've shown the first chapter to some local Slavs and many of them have expressed an interest in buying a copy. We could have, say, 100 copies printed. But 75 of those copies would have to be paid for before printing. The cost for a hard-bound book would be around \$50-60, and for a soft-cover around \$30 per book (it hasn't been decided yet if it will be hard-bound or soft-cover). These prices are for the cost of printing only (shipping costs are extra, however). There is no mark-up – no one will be making a profit.

My question is: How many people would be willing to pay for a copy of this book before it is printed? I am willing to show the first chapter to anyone who might be interested. If we get 75 people signed up, then we can go ahead and order 100 books. If more than 75 people sign up, that's fine. In fact, it would lower the cost per book. Please let me know by contacting me by phone, mail or email as soon as possible.

—Tom Ninkovich, Slavic History Project, Watsonville

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Email: tom@croatia-in-english.com

INFO ON CROATIAN GENEALOGY

For anyone that is interested in finding their family heritage, you can now go to this new website: www.croatian-genealogy.com

This website, which just came out in July, 2009 is in Samobar, Croatia called the "Croatian Family History & Genealogy." This website contains various resources which include directory of most common Croatian surnames as well as first(given) names, the Croatian Parishes address book, news articles and educational material on how to start your Croatian Genealogy research. This site is supported by Sambrenjak Genealogy Research, a group of dedicated genealogy specialists that offer research services for anyone whose ancestors are from Croatia or Slovenia.

***Source: Croatian Chronicle
New York - 8/09***

For your information:

If anyone is interested in purchasing Croatian Christmas greeting cards, you can go to www.nasa-djeca.hr

Another site you can go to for Croatian Christmas cards and music/songs is www.dancingbear.hr This is a great selection from the Zagreb Croatian Bookshop. Hope you find what you like!



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1 3 PM 2010 NOV 22



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